

REMARKS / AGRUMENTS

Applicant(s) respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons set out below, and ask the Examiner for reconsideration.

Summary of the Office Action

Claim 27 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Shioda et al. (U.S. 6,484,318 B1).

Claims 28-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Shioda et al, in further view of Hraster et al. (US 6,324,267 B1)

Claim amendment

Claim 27 was amended so as to include the limitation wherein the session manager is further adapted to dynamically reallocate a channel of a newly selected network transmitter for directing addressable data packets to the specific destination, so that a data session with the specific destination follows a video selection of a user.

Claim 34 was introduced, to claim the broadband multimedia system according to claim 27, wherein the broadband multimedia router is communicatively connected between the plurality of media sources and a plurality of quadrature amplitude modulation units of a quadrature amplitude modulation array, wherein the plurality of the quadrature amplitude modulation units is the plurality of the network transmitters.

Claim 35 was introduced, to claim the broadband multimedia system according to claim 27, wherein the session manager is further adapted to dynamically reallocate the channel of the newly selected network transmitter in response to a notification received from a set top box of a user over an out-of-band channel.

No new matter is introduced by this amendment.

Response to the 35 U.S.C. 102(e) rejection of claim 27

Claim 27 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Shioda et al. (U.S. 6,484,318B1). The examiner argues that Shioda teaches a broadband multimedia system, comprising: a broadband multimedia router (Shioda's 26) communicatively connected to a data router and between a plurality of media sources and a plurality of network transmitters (Shioda's 51), and configured to encapsulate packets of video streams received from said media sources within addressable packets for switching between inputs and outputs of said broadband multimedia router; and a session manager (Shioda's 10-12, 14), communicatively connected to said broadband multimedia router and configured to provide routing instructions to said broadband multimedia router for (i) directing said video streams received from said media sources to said network transmitters for transmitting over a broadband network and (ii) directing addressable data packets received from said data router to at least a selected one of said network transmitters for transmitting over said broadband network to a specific destination associated with address information included in said addressable data packets.

The applicants respectfully disagree, for several reasons specified below. Additionally, a limitation introduced in the specification was added, stating wherein the session manager is further adapted to dynamically reallocate a channel of a newly selected network transmitter for directing addressable data packets to the specific destination, so that a data session with the specific destination follows a video selection of a user.

It should be noted that the invention of the applicants and that of Shioda are directed toward different ends, and therefore implement entirely different means. While the invention of the applicants is implementable for providing of additional data content to a user along with the video content provided, to be received by the set top boxes of users (one of the examples given is providing additional information about a movie being displayed to the user), Shioda teaches a method directed to provide internet to personal computer over the same infrastructure, but independently of any video content provided over that infrastructure.

Firstly, it should be noted that the routing instruction provided by the session manager are used to directing both (a) video streams that are received from media

sources to network transmitters for transmitting over a broadband network and (ii) addressable data packets received from the data router to at least the selected network transmitter for transmitting over said broadband network to a specific destination associated with address information included in said addressable data packets.

Thus, while the video streams are conveniently provided to a plurality of users (e.g. viewers of different televisions channels) by the network transmitters, the addressable data packets are directed to the specific destination (usually STBs of selected user or several users). According to an embodiment of the invention referred to in the specification (page 9, lines 11-12), the network transmitters in a hybrid fiber/coaxial (HFC) network are quadrature amplitude modulation (QAM) units, and parallel units in other types of broadband networks.

It is noted that the Shioda's downstream communication unit 10a of center device 10 includes only a single QAM modulator 16, and no routing to different QAM units is taking place. Naturally, considering the distributors 51 of Shioda, which the examiner considered to be equivalent to the network distributors of the claimed system, as each users is connected only through a single distributor 51, naturally there is no routing of data session of a single user to multiple distributors.

In order to emphasize that Shioda does not teach of dynamically reallocating a channel of a newly selected network transmitter, it is noted that the channel of communication over which the data session of Shioda is transmitted is set during a power on of terminal device 50 (column 11, lines 61-64), and is not reallocated so that a data session with the specific destination follows a video selection of a user.

Therefore, Shioda does not teach wherein the session manager is further adapted to dynamically reallocate a channel of a newly selected network transmitter for directing addressable data packets to the specific destination, so that a data session with the specific destination follows a video selection of a user.

Additionally, it should be noted that Shioda's downstream communication includes cable packets all of which include IP data packet (column 15, lines 19-21), and thus Shioda does not teach of directing video streams and addressable data packets that are distinct from each other, but any video content provided by Shioda is an IP video content, and not streaming MPEG video or any other native video streams.

Considering all of the above offered arguments, claim 27 should be allowed.

Claims 28-30, 34 and 35 which depend onto claim 27 should also be allowed.

Referring to claim 34, following the discussion above, it is clear that Shioda does not teach wherein the broadband multimedia router is communicatively connected between the plurality of media sources and a plurality of quadrature amplitude modulation units of a quadrature amplitude modulation array, wherein the plurality of the quadrature amplitude modulation units is the plurality of the network transmitters.

Referring to claim 35, since all the communication with the users according to Shioda is carried in-band, between center 2 and distributors 51, it is clear that Shioda does not teach wherein the session manager is further adapted to dynamically reallocate the channel of the newly selected network transmitter in response to a notification received from a set top box of a user over an out-of-band channel.

Therefore, claims 34 and 35 should be allowed.

Response to the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claims 28-30

Claims 28-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Shioda et al, in further view of Hraster et al. (US 6,324,267 B1).

The applicants argue that neither Shioda nor Hraster teach the limitation wherein the session manager is further adapted to dynamically reallocate the channel of the newly selected network transmitter in response to a notification received from a set top box of a user over an out-of-band channel, and therefore, neither does a combination of Shioda and Hraster teaches the limitations of claim 27.

As claims 28-30 depend on claim 27 which is not taught by such a combination, and include further limitations, claims 28-30 are not taught by a combination of Shioda and Hraster, and should be allowed.

Conclusion

The applicant believes that in view of these arguments claims 27-30 and 34-35 should be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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Respectfully submitted,

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